

REMARKS

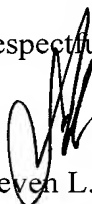
The claims have been amended without prejudice or disclaimer to manage the claims fees. Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 2-18 have been amended, and claims 19 and 20 have been added. Thus, claims 2-20 are pending and are presented for reconsideration. Applicants retain the right to pursue the subject matter as originally claimed in future applications.

The filing fee has been calculated after amendment of the claims by the preliminary amendment. No new matter is added by entry of this preliminary amendment.

It is believed that no fee is due with this communication, however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed document, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct or credit said fees from or to Fulbright & Jaworski Deposit Account No. 50-1212/EPCL:014US.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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